

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/073,091

Applicant(s)

DONAHUE ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Roy M. Punnoose

2877

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on November 10, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 6-13, 15-19, 21 and 22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/15/2001.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


Gregory A. Tomley, Jr.
Supervisor, Patent Examiner

DETAILED ACTION

Interview Summary

1. After the interview with Mr. John F. Guay (Reg. No.47,248) on November 15, 2005, the Examiner has determined that the amendment of claims 1, 11 and 17 has overcome the prior-art rejection of the previous office action. In view of the amendments of the abovesaid claims, the final rejection of the previous office action has been withdrawn. A copy of the interview summary provided to Mr. John F. Guay is included herewith.

Response to Amendment

2. Acknowledgement is made of applicant's amendment filed on November 10, 2005, which is the same as the claims presented during the interview on November 15, 2005. The Examiner has accepted the amendments and the remarks/arguments presented by the applicant.

3. The applicant has amended claims 1, 6, 7, 11 and 17, cancelled claims 5, 14 and 20, and, withdrawn from consideration claims 23-30. Accordingly claims 23-30 has also been cancelled. Currently claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-19 and 21-22 are pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-19 and 21-22 allowable.

5. Claims 1, 11 and 17 are allowable because the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a system or method for identifying an object comprising a first optical polarizer arranged in a first orientation on at least a portion of the signal transceiver system with respect to a second optical polarizer arranged in a second orientation on at least a portion of a reflective surface on the object, and detecting polarized light from said object wherein the object reflects polarized light without diffracting the polarized light, in combination with the rest of the limitations of the respective claims.

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6. Claims 2-4, 6-10, 12-13, 15-16, 18-19 and 21-22 are allowable because they are dependent on independent claims 1, 11 or 17, or an intermediate claim, and they include all the allowable limitations of the parent claim(s).

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Roy M. Punnoose** whose telephone number is **571-272-2427**.

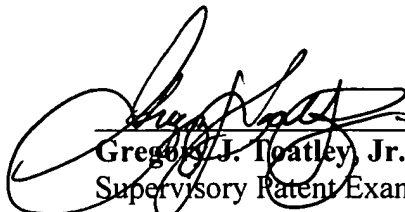
The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Gregory J. Toatley, Jr.** can be reached on **571-272-2800 ext.77**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **703-872-9306**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Roy M. Punnoose
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2877
November 18, 2005




Gregory J. Toatley, Jr.
Supervisory Patent Examiner
12 Dec 05